

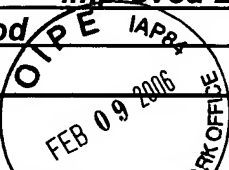
02-10-06

PTO/SB/05 (03-01)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Express Mail No.: EV697643925US		Attorney Docket No.	42435-006	First Inventor: Dustin Smith
AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER Title: <u>Improved Block Attacher Apparatus and Method</u> Method: <u>PIPE IAPP</u>		Serial No.	10/817,188	
		Filing Date	04/02/2004	
		Examiner	Koehler, Christopher M.	
		Group Art Unit	3726	

**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:**

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.



Large Entity Status



Small Entity status of this application has been established under 37 CFR 1.27

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED – PART II						SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
		(Column 1)		(Column 2)	(Column 3)				
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	40*	Minus	**38	=2	x \$25.00=	\$ 0.00	x \$50.00=	\$ 100.00
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	3*	Minus	**3*	=0	x \$100.00=	\$ 0.00	x \$200.00=	\$ 0.00
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))					x \$180.00=		x \$360.00=	
						TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	\$ 0.00	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	\$ 100.00
<p>* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.</p> <p>** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".</p> <p>*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".</p> <p>The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.</p>									



Petition of Extension of Time.



No additional fee is required for amendment.



A check in the amount of \$100.00 is enclosed.

The Commissioner has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. 08-3460.The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 08-3460.
I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.



Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Signature

Date: February 9, 2006

H. Frederick Rusche, 45,061
 Husch & Eppenberger, LLC
 190 Carondelet Plaza
 St. Louis, MO, 63105
 314-480-1500
 314-480-1505 FAX

Custom No.: 029493
 2263005.01

Certificate of Express Mail Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that these documents are being deposited on February 9, 2006 with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV697643925US under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 21313-1450

Signature:

Type Name: Karen K. Sonstebv



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Smith, Dustin Smith et al.	Group No.: 3726
Serial No.: 10/817,188	Atty. Docket No.: 42435-006
Filed: 04/02/2004	
For: Improved Block Attacher Apparatus and Method	Examiner: Koehler, Christopher M.

MAIL STOP Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

HONORABLE SIR:

Responsive to the official communication of January 9, 2006, Applicant submits the following response.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 08-3460.

RESTRICTION

The Examiner has concluded that the application has four (4) distinct inventions. The Examiner has identified Invention I as a method of assembling a block stringer, represented by Claim 1. The Examiner has identified Invention II as a block attacher, represented by Claims 2-15. The Examiner has identified Invention III as a method of producing stringers, represented by Claims 16-26. Finally, the Examiner has identified Invention IV as a block stringer assembler,

represented by Claims 27-38. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §1.121, the Examiner has required applicant to select one invention subject to the restriction requirement. Applicant hereby provisionally selects Examiner designated Invention II (Claims 2-15) with traverse.